



Longfields' Latest

18th March 2021

Well Done Everyone!

Dear All,

What a wonderful feeling it is having everyone back in school. Yes, we still have to operate in bubbles; yes, it is by no means normal, but having a school full of children is how it is meant to be.

Over the past few weeks, I have been teaching in Year one for two days a week and it has been wonderful to be more closely involved in teaching and learning at a classroom level. It is great to see the enthusiasm for learning face-to-face and the look of pleasure on our children's faces when the penny drops; they understand something new, or they have simply produced some excellent work. It is what the job is all about and teaching, learning and fostering an enthusiasm for that process is such a privilege – even in tough circumstances!

Let's hope that things continue to improve and that we can slowly begin to move to more whole school events. Thank you again for your continued support and the amazing sense of community here at Longfields.

COVID GUIDELINES

There are many advantages to being on the gate morning and afternoon. Of course, greeting you all and staying in touch with what is going on, but also keeping an eye on how our COVID guidelines are working on a day-to-day basis.

Could I please remind you all of the following:

DROP OFF and PICK UP

Please do ensure you drop your children off at the correct time. Over half the school has a start time of 9:10am in the morning, yet by 9:10am I am normally standing on the gate alone with very few parents walking past. Equally, 3:15pm sees very few parents left on site. There may well be a temptation to drop off early if you can, or pick up early if you can, but this should only be for those who have siblings with different start and finish times. If that is not the case for you, then please stick to the correct timings.

HIGH TEMPERATURES

As a school, one of the only safeguards we have against the spread of COVID is testing temperatures. If a child is feeling unwell at school then this is something we do as routine.

If your child's temperature is over 37.8 c we will ask for the child and other siblings to be collected from school, and you will need to book a PCR test for the child with the temperature (a LFT is not sufficient). In addition to this, the latest guidance advises that even if the PCR test comes back as negative, children can return to school when they've not had a high temperature for 48 hours and feel well.

If at any time you are concerned that your child has COVID symptoms then please book a test.

We understand this is a difficult situation as many children just have normal coughs and colds which result in a rise in temperature, but currently we have no alternatives to this process.



FRIDAY 19th March

Don't forget that tomorrow is Red Nose Day and we will be joining in with the fundraising by coming to school in something red.

**Please make your £1 contribution through the Scopay app in the normal way.
Thank you for your support.**

LATERAL FLOW TESTING (LFT) for parents

For a number of weeks, staff at school have been self-testing twice a week to ensure reduced risk whilst at work. You may now have heard from the government that these LFT kits are now available for parents with school-aged children. Some of you, I know are already testing at home, but should you wish to know more then the link below gives more information.

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/coronavirus-covid-19/prevention-and-testing/testing-parents-and-carers>

STREET TAG

Amazing work to everyone who has been using the Street Tag app over the last couple of months. It has been fantastic watching us rise from the bottom all the way up to 2nd place. We are closing the gap every day on first place and with this season finishing on 31st March, one big final push could see us claim that top spot! Let's get those steps up and keep tagging! For those of you who are not on Street Tag yet, the information you need is in the School Sport section of the website and any more questions you can send Mr Tyler an email.

PARENT EVENINGS

**Now - week beginning
26th April**

Please note that our Parent Evenings are now scheduled for the second week back after Easter. After the success of last time, we will be running these through Microsoft Teams again. Booking will open as normal just before Easter on the school life app, if you do not enter an alternative email address in the comments box when booking on the App, we will send the invite to your child's Microsoft Teams address. Please note that at the end of your allotted time you will need to leave the meeting or your session will be closed by the teacher, this will be because other parents will be waiting for their meeting to start. Please help us stick to time.

INTERNET SAFETY DAY

Over the past year our children have been online far more than they would normally have been.

Nationally this has resulted in many issues around safety online.

We have on a number of occasions, had contact from the county safeguarding team, highlighting various new websites or Apps that are springing up and causing concern.

Our curriculum always addresses e-safety and as part of this we will be delivering a class internet safety day on Tuesday 30th March.

This will vary in both content and length, which will be appropriate for each year group and contain the key messages about safe use of the internet.

Please ensure:

- You know what your child is accessing online and that it is appropriate for their age.
- That you monitor their screen time.
- You set up Parental controls on your devices should you need to.
- That your child's behaviour online is appropriate and that they do not get drawn in to unkind or inappropriate conversations or comments (even with friends).
- That all school-based systems are used purely for school work and that on screen behaviour matches the behaviour we would expect when in school.

The links below offer a lot of support in this area:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

<https://www.childnet.com/>

CAR PARK

A reminder that the school car park is for staff only. Please do not use it to drop children off or wait for them at the end of the day. If you are spotted using the car park without permission please do not be offended when you are asked to leave. This is for the safety of staff and children attending school. Thank you

In Memory of David Brown (Dave)

Some of you will know that a couple of years ago we set up a group in school called 'Full-Circle'. This group comprised of some of our school pupils, together with some of our more elderly local residents.

This group can only be described as amazing. In so many ways the weekly group that met over lunch and undertook craft activities and a good deal of chat, benefited both our children and the local residents that came along.

Dave was one of those attendees, and we all got to know him so well. He loved attending and telling us his many life stories and we loved listening to them. Sadly, Dave passed away a number of weeks ago.

We will miss him dearly and send our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.

'Bike Bank' coming to Longfields

I am really excited to announce that Longfields has been chosen to be the first school in Bicester to run a 'Bike Bank'.

We hope to start the scheme in the summer term, which aims to encourage families and children to cycle to school and therefore help our local environment.

The scheme will see us holding a bank of 20 bikes (including some adult sizes) and will enable us to loan out bikes to family groups for a period of time. Therefore encouraging cycling to school with all the benefits associated.

Currently the project is in its infancy and there is much paperwork and planning to be done, but we are hopeful that by the summer term we will have the scheme up and running (or should I say 'rolling!'). Please look out for more details next term.

School Life App

Some parents are not receiving updates from school via the School Life App because they are only seeing the public site. For safety, school messages are only available to those who have logged in. Parents should log into the app :- just open the app, click the two houses at the top, select log in and enter your user name and password. If you don't have your username or password, just email- office@longfields-primary.org

We can re-set this for you.

Thank you

Dates for your diary:

Please see School Life calendar for full dates

31 Mar - Last day before Easter holiday
19 April - First day back after Easter
28 May - Last day before Half Term
8 June - **TUE First day back (Mon 7th INSET)**
22 July - Last day before Summer Holiday
3 Sept - First day back after Summer holidays